



# 2023 SPRING FISHERIES SURVEY SUMMARY

## ROUND LAKE, SAWYER COUNTY

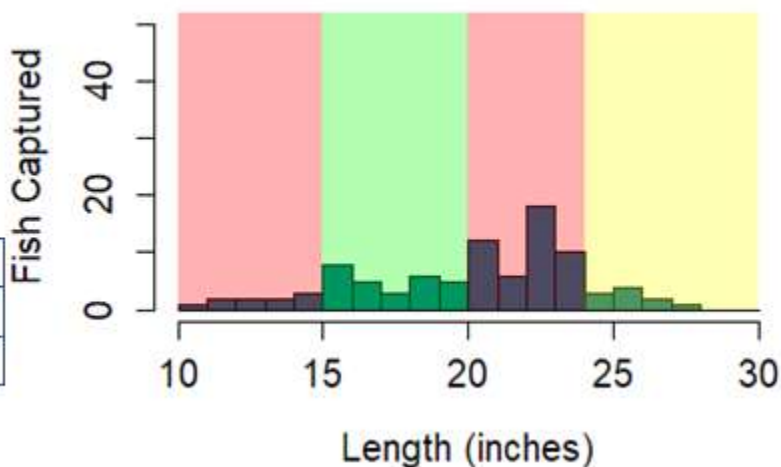
Report by Evan Sirianni

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Hayward Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Round Lake from May 16-18, 2023. The primary species targeted were muskellunge and black crappies, but useful data was also gathered on yellow perch, walleyes and northern pike. Up to 14 nets were set overnight for three total nights, which resulted in 39 total net-nights of effort. An electrofishing survey was conducted on May 30, 2023 to target largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and bluegills and included 8 miles of shoreline. Quality, preferred and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

WALLEYE



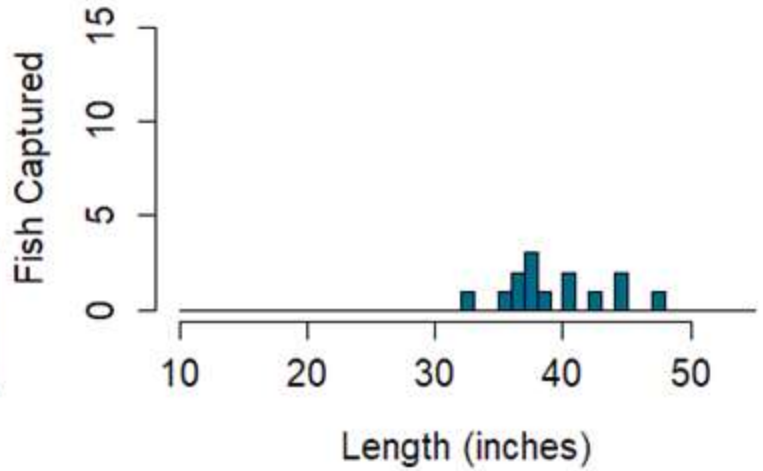
Captured 2.4 per net-night $\geq$ 10 inches	
Quality Size $\geq$ 15"	89%
Preferred Size $\geq$ 20"	60%



### MUSKELLUNGE



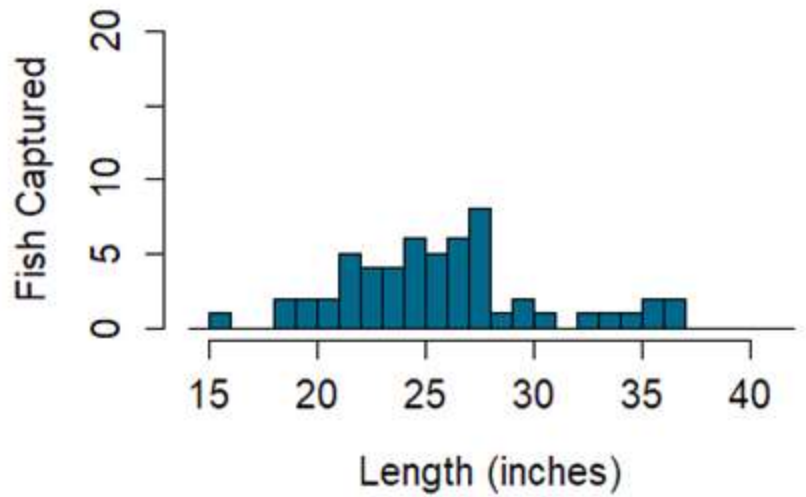
Captured 0.4 per net-night $\geq 20$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 30''$	93%
Memorable Size $\geq 42''$	29%



### NORTHERN PIKE



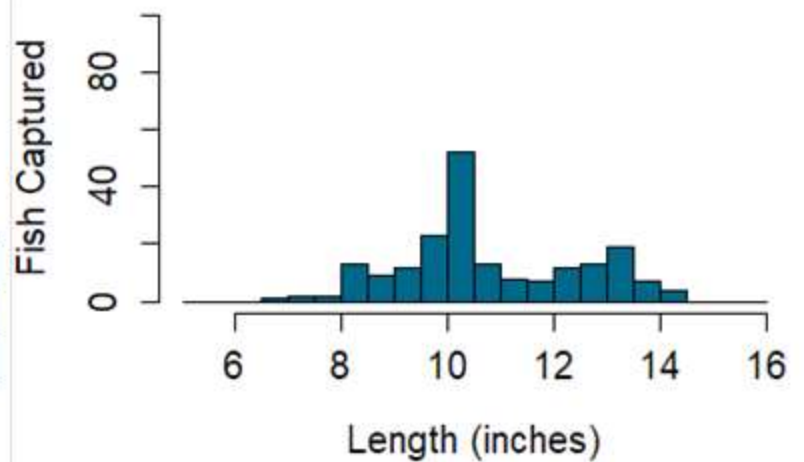
Captured 1.5 per net-night $\geq 14$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 21''$	88%
Preferred Size $\geq 28''$	20%



### BLACK CRAPPIE



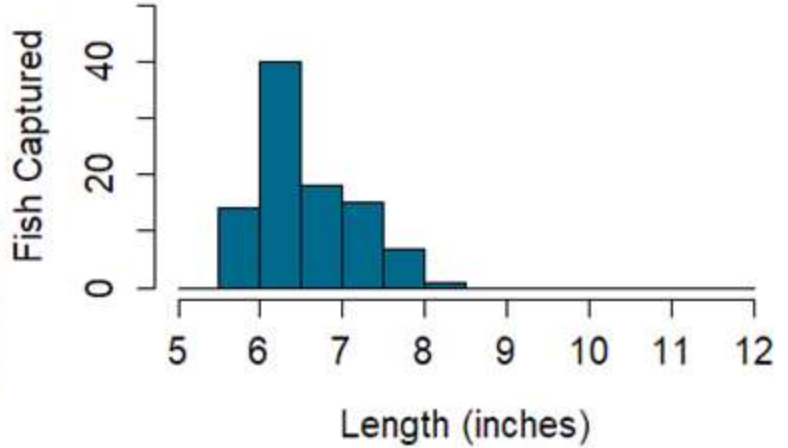
Captured 5 per net-night $\geq 5$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 8''$	98%
Preferred Size $\geq 10''$	69%



YELLOW PERCH



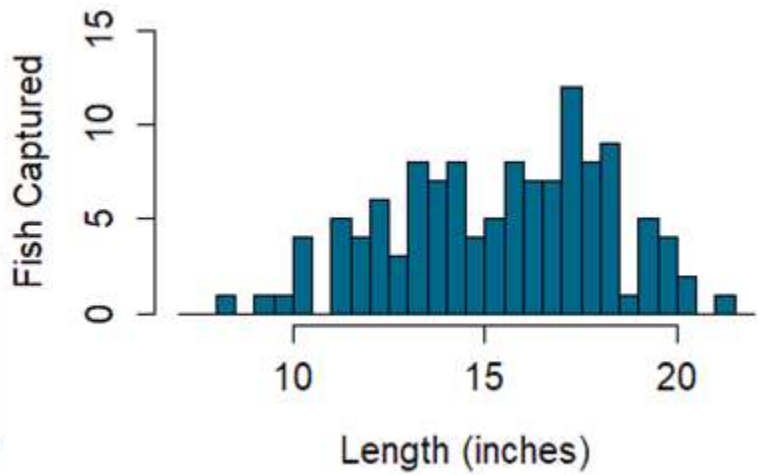
Captured 2.5 per net-night $\geq 5$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 8''$	1%
Preferred Size $\geq 10''$	0%



SMALLMOUTH BASS



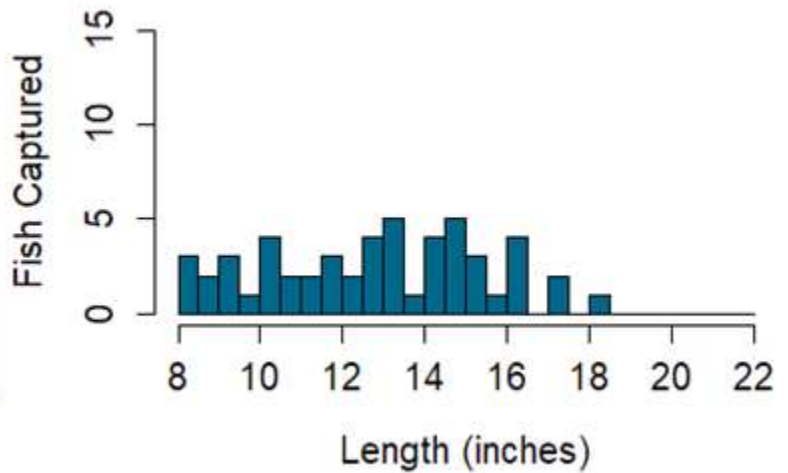
Captured 15 per mile $\geq 7$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 11''$	94%
Preferred Size $\geq 14''$	67%
Memorable Size $\geq 17''$	35%



LARGEMOUTH BASS



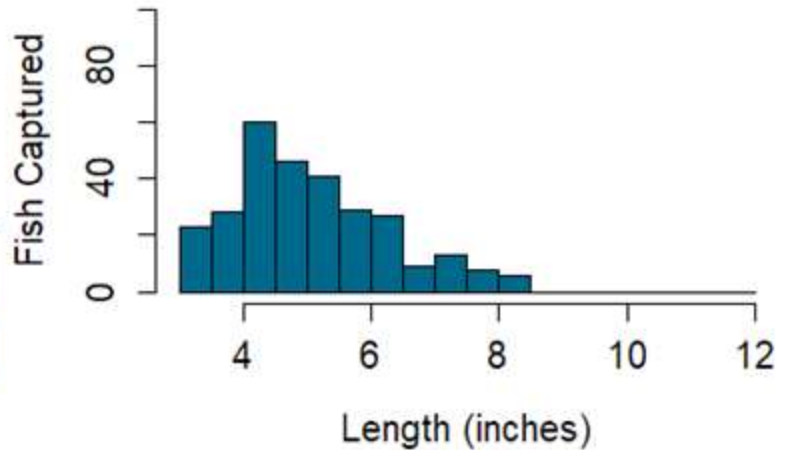
Captured 7 per mile $\geq 8$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 12''$	62%
Preferred Size $\geq 15''$	21%



## BLUEGILL



Captured 154 per mile $\geq$ 3 inches	
Quality Size $\geq$ 6"	22%
Preferred Size $\geq$ 8"	2%



## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The netting survey was timed, and net locations were selected to target muskellunge and black crappies. Water temps stayed relatively cold throughout the survey. The electrofishing survey was timed very well for sampling smallmouth bass that had moved into shallower water and were either sitting on spawning beds or roaming. Largemouth bass and panfish were also in shallow areas during the time of the survey. Round Lake is classified as a Complex-Two Story Lake according to the DNR fisheries lake classification system. The term “Complex” refers to the number of gamefish species that occupy the lake, and “Two Story” explains the lake’s ability to hold a deep, cold-water habitat capable of supporting species like cisco (though cisco were not a target of this survey). This report compares catch rates to lakes of the same classification of “Complex-Two Story.”

## WALLEYE

Walleyes were not a primary target in this survey, so it is not surprising that few were captured. However, the walleyes that were captured were of a large size. Of the walleyes captured, 89% were above a quality size of 15 inches, and 60% of the walleyes were greater than a preferred size of 20 inches. The daily bag limit for walleyes on Round Lake is three in total, with a minimum length limit of 15 inches, no harvest from 20-24 inches, and only one may be over 24 inches.

## MUSKELLUNGE

Muskellunge catch was not high, but quality size made up most of the fish caught. The muskellunge catch rate during the netting survey was between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (0.4 fish per net-night) compared to lakes of the same classification. A quality size of 30 inches made up 93% of the fish captured, and 29% of the muskies were above a memorable size of 42 inches. There is a 50-inch minimum length limit for muskellunge on Round Lake, with a daily bag limit of one.

## NORTHERN PIKE

The catch rate of northern pike from the netting survey was above average (1.5 per net-night), landing between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for lakes of the same classification. Northern pike size was enticing, with 88% of the pike caught above a quality length of 21 inches and 20% of pike above 28 inches. There is no minimum length limit on northern pike in Round Lake, and there is a daily bag limit of five fish.

## BLACK CRAPPIE

The size of black crappies caught during the netting survey was a stand-out occurrence throughout the survey. Crappies above 8 inches made up 98% of the those caught, and 69% of crappies were above a preferred size of 10 inches. Not only was the consistent size impressive, but there were also good numbers. Black crappies were captured at a rate of five fish per net-night, which, compared to lakes of the same classification, puts it between the 75<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. The daily bag limit for panfish on Round Lake is 25, but only 10 of any one species may be kept.

## YELLOW PERCH

Yellow perch catch during the netting survey was underwhelming and the persistence of the colder water might have contributed to the lack of success. Capture rate was low (2.5 per net-night) putting Round Lake between the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile (25%) and the median of lakes of the same classification. Size was also disappointing, with only 1% of the perch caught above 8 inches in length. The daily bag limit for panfish on Round Lake is 25, but only 10 of any one species may be kept.

## SMALLMOUTH BASS

The electrofishing survey conducted this spring was targeted towards capturing smallmouth bass during their spawning season. Many of the bass during that time were on beds with some still moving around in shallow water. The number of smallmouth captured during the survey was an extremely high 15 fish per mile, putting Round Lake in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for lakes of the same classification. Size was also exceptional, with 94% of the fish captured measuring over 11 inches, 67% of the fish over 14 inches and 35% of smallmouth caught with lengths over 17 inches. The daily bag limit for smallmouth bass on Round Lake is one, with a 18-inch minimum length limit.

## LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth bass were captured at an above average rate (7 per mile) compared to other lakes of the same class. Size of largemouth was also above average with 62% of

the largemouth caught above a quality size of 12 inches and 21% above 15 inches. largemouth bass of any length may be kept on Round Lake, with a daily bag limit of five.

## BLUEGILL

Bluegills were captured at a high rate (between 75<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles) during the electrofishing survey. Bluegills surveyed were on the smaller side, with only 22% of them measuring above 6 inches and 2% of them having a length over 8 inches. The daily bag limit for panfish on Round Lake is 25, but only 10 of any one species may be kept.

## OTHER SPECIES

Other species captured throughout the survey include rock bass, white sucker and warmouth. Considerable numbers of white sucker were captured in the survey from checking hatchery nets for muskellunge but are not included in this survey.

Survey Crew: Max Wolter, Scott Braden, Evan Sirianni and Kellie Brown  
*Reviewed and approved by Aaron Cole*